

igo COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

This charge,, which Macaulay repeats
three or four
times, rests solely on the authority of Burner,
and is not
confirmed by other evidence. James was not
humane :
he had no objection to the employment of
torture ; but
there is no proof that he took any special
delight in it.

In another passage Macaulay says that the '
fiery per-
secution, which had raged when he ruled
Scotland as vice-
gerent, waxed hotter than ever from the day
on which he
became sovereign/' For illustrations of this
persecution
he relies mainly on Wodrow's History of the
Sufferings of
the Church of Scotland from the Restoration
to the Re-
volution, published in 1721-J/22,¹ and on the
Cloud of
Witnesses, which is a collection of the last
speeches and
testimonies of the sufferers, published about
1720. Both
were partisan works, but there was no
impartial authority
available.²

In legend and history the accumulated
odium of all the
persecutions and executions of the * killing
time ' had been
heaped on Claverhouse, and Macaulay
accepts the popular
tradition with too little discrimination,
exaggerates his
misdeeds, and credits him with the crimes of
other men.
^e 'Preeminent', writes Macaulay, ' among the
bands which

^J It is to be regretted that a critical edition of Wodrow
has never been
published, though his correspondence and papers furnish
materials for the
purpose. Patrick Walker's lives of Peden, Cameron, and
other worthies

have been carefully edited by D. Hay Fleming, under the title of Six Saints of the Covenant (2 vols. ; 1901). Similarly the collection of epitaphs at the end of the Cloud of Witnesses has been reprinted, with additions, in Mr. J. H. Thompson's The Martyr Graves of Scotland (1903), though these stories are not critically examined.

- Unluckily the records of the Privy Council for these years are imperfect. Macaulay says that the Acts during almost the whole administration of the Duke of York are wanting, and adds that the hiatus extends from Aug. 1675 to Aug. 1682. The missing volume has been since recovered, and is now in the Register House, but there is still a gap from the beginning of 1686 to May 1689. See The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, 3rd Ser., xi, 1929), Introduction.